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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

# INFORMATION REPORT

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USSR

SUBJECT

Comments on Scholastic Education/ Schools

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#### GENERAL COMMENTS

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Physical education is a major item of the student's curriculum, which starts in the nursery school and continues throughout his scholastic training. It is well planned and directed. It is in the field of physical education the student has the opportunity of developing his individual self.

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- The conformity of thought of the students was disturbing to us. For instance, when we asked questions about Beria or the war in Korea, we got the same answer every time. One student would answer and say that he spoke for all the students. We would ask him how it was possible for him to answer for students that were one thousand miles away, and he would reply, "All students have the same opinion on important issues." Despite all the talks which we had with students in various parts of the USSR, we were never able to get beneath the surface of Soviet thought to ferret out any possible signs of discontent or repellion.
- We were told at various schools that 70 to 98% of all university students are members of the Komosol, which is the Communist Youth Movement. Their ages range from 14 to 25 years. Most of these members came up from the "Ploneers", which is the Children's Communist Movement, and includes children within the ages of seven to 14 years. All activities outside the regular school's curriculum are centered around the Kumosol.
- We noticed that students at the various schools of higher learning were serious and enthusiastic about their education. All the universities that we visited were co-educational, with about an aqual division of the sexes.
- "A standard question which we asked of the administrative personnel of the uni-5. versities was, "What major problems confront you at this time?" The answer was the same every time; "We are lacking in space; we need new buildings; and we

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need more equipment." In some of the areas, for instance, in Markov, many of the old university buildingswere destroyed by the wer. A building program is in progress at Kharkov, as well as at other places. However, the consensus of these officials was that the present building program was not surficient to take care of the needs of the universities. These men emphasized the fact that the birth rate of the country was increasing and more and more children were entering the schools of higher learning.

- 6. Another item that was common with all the schools of higher learning was expressed by the President of Stalin University at Toilisi (Tiflis), when he stated, "Here like in all of our universities, we stress practical work. Students are trained for particular jobs, and every summer during the student's vacation, he is assigned a certain part of the country to go to do his laboratory and field work."
- 7. The entrance requirements to universities are the same throughout the country. Students who have received Gold or Silver Medals from the Middle Schools are eligible for entrance; all other students are subjected to a rigid examination before their entrance to a university. If a student fails, he can apply for enother examination.
- 8. Many scholarships are given to students, ranging from three hundred to seven hundred rubles per month. This covers the cost of tuition, which is about four hundred rubles per year and includes room, board, books, and a little is left for spending money. Students who maintain good and excellent marks, roughly equivalent to a "B" or "A" average in the US, are awarded a 25% bonus. Upper classmen are allowed an increase in their financial scholarships.
- 9. Courses in universities run for five years, with an additional three years required for the first graduate degree. However, Soviet student begins college after only 10 years of previous schooling; this compares with 12 years in the US.
- 10. Graduates from the universities are required to serve for three years at whatover job the government assigns them. We asked the students whether they had any choice of jobs, and they said, "Yes. However, no two people ever compete for the same job."
- 11. The heads of all schools of higher Parning are scientists, and all of them have a doctor's degree. We were told by the President of Stalin Univerty, Tbilisi (Tiflis), that all professors and teachers in these universities had to devote one-half of their time to research. For instance, a teacher was given a subject for research; and if he devoted three hours a day to his teaching, he also was required to devote three hours to research on the subject given him.
- 12. Students at the universities are deferred from military service while they are attending school. However, they do have military training which compares with the R.O.T.C. in our US colleges. Students doing graduate work are also deferred from military service. One professor told us that scientists and engineers who are in graduate school or who have completed their graduate work are never taken into the army because their services as scientists or engineers are more valuable to the government.

# SERY AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

13. Murser, schools ake the children almost from birth, generally at the age of six weeks, and keep them until they are three years old. Parents employed in industry take their children to nursery school each Monday morning on their way to work, and pick them up again to take them home on the following Saturday. Each day after working hours, the parents are permitted to see their children.

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- 14. We visited a kindergarten in Kiev: This was modern and clean. It was strictly limited in its enrollment to six classes of 25 children each. Children between the ages of three and seven attended the kindergarten. Although this is not compulative the is charged for each child attending kindergarten. The amount of the fee is determined upon the ability of the parents to pay. Kindergarten children attend school from 10 to 12 hours a day, six days a week. They have no academic instruction, but play games, sing songs, draw and do different exercises.
- 15. All children must enter the elementary school at the age of seven years. We visited the K. W Middle School. Here we were told that the same curriculum applied to all 1 iddle Schools throughout the USSR; and we were told that educatica in the middle school is free up and including the seventh year. Tuition is charged for the last three years, and the usual charge is \$50.00 per year.
- 16. Compulsor courses in the middle school consist of algebra, geometry, trigonometry, chemistry, physics, psychology, astronomy, logic, physical culture, history, and a choice of a foreign language. This Middle School which we visited in Kiev was old and the students had to attend school in two shifts, six days a week. Each class lasted 45 minutes.
- Major industries, such as the Stalin Works in Moscow, have their own schools. We visited the Stalin Works and were told that no children under the age of 16 years could be employed. We saw many of these 16-year-old employees, and to me they appeared to be much younger than 16 years of age. Children of this age are required to attend the school set up by the industry. These factory-operated schools have correspondence courses, night classes, and full-time day classes for people training for technical jobs. All students attending the factory technical schools are subsidized.

#### MOSCOW UNIVERSITY, MOSCOW

- 18. This is the show-place of the Soviet educational system. It is a 32-story sky-scraper, situated on Lenin Hill just outside of Moscow. The university was formally opened in the fall of 1953. Facilities at the university are generally good, new and attractive: Laboratories are streamlined and well-equipped. Classes and lecture halls seemed to be adequate.
- 19. In the Library, there are individual study desks for the students. There appeared to be a good supply of US technical journals available, such as: The Bulletin of the Geological Society of America, and The Bulletin of the Association of Petroleum Geologists. There were also other scientific periodicals available.

  We saw no US newspapers or current magazines.
- 20. Two 18-story wings are attached to the 32-story skyscraper, known as the classroom section. The wings are dormitories, and provide space for five thousand
  students. We visited some of these rooms and found them comfortable, welllighted and comparable to US college dormitory rooms.
- 21. We mat the Rector of the University of Moscow, Doctor Petrovsky frul, who is a true scientist. He introduced us to the second-in-command at the university, Doctor Falisthev frul. We had a little time to visit with them and ask them questions. Afterwards, they turned us over to students who directed us throughout the University.
- 22. The University of Mescow has the following faculties: Art, Philosophy, History, Economics, Law, Philology, Journalism, Natural Science, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Geology, Geography, and Medicine.

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23. The old buildings of the University of Moscow, which are located in the central part of Moscow, are still being operated and in use. The new buildings house all of the Natural Sciences. The present enrollment at the University is

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18 thousand, 5% of whom are women. We were told that there were several students from other Satellite countries, as well as from Africa and other countries; the numbers from each were not told us.

## AZERBAIJAN INDUSTRIAL COLLEGE, BAKU

- Azerbaijan Industrial College is also known as the Azerbaijan Oil Institute. It is located in the central part of Baku, and consists or several buildings. We were guests of the President, Mr P S Gadjev, who escorted us throughout the college. We saw very little of the laboratorias but did see a display of several kinds of rock containing minerals. Gadjev answered our questions through an interpreter, and told us this Institute was founded in 1920; and by 1953, it had turned out 15 thousand engineers.
- 25. Students from other Satellite countries, and Turkey come to this Institute. In when we were there, there were 10 thousand students enrolled, 60% men and 40% women, who are being trained to be technicians and engineers in the oil industry. Also being trained at the Institute are geologists, geo-physicists, industrial technologists, energy engineers, machine builders, oil mechanics, and economy engineers. Courses are taught in the Azerbaijan and Russian Linguages. First of the education of students includes active work in the oil fields. President Gadjev said that one of the principal activities of the Institute at the present time was a project on historical soil research, which he said would aid geology.
  - 26. We were told that this was the only school of this kind in the USSR. Graduating students from this college are immediately given jobs which pay .1500 rubles monthly.
  - We were shown a film entitled, "Developing the Oil Industry in the Caspian Sea"; and were told that this project had been started in 1942 and was now partially in operation. We tried to find out the location of these oil fields in the Caspian, but were unsuccessful. One of the professors told me that they were drilling oil wells as far as two hundred kilometers out in the Caspian.

#### STALIN UNIVERSITY, TBILISI (TIFLIS)

We met the President of Stalin University, Doctor E E Burchuladze, who gave us information concerning his university. He told us that the University is 35 years old. Before the Russian Revolution the University had only a Philosophy Department, but it now has developed to 12 different departments, as follows: Physics, Mathematics. Chemistry, Geology, History, Geography, Biology, Philosophy, Language, Economics, Lew, and he also told us it had a course in Medicine. Stalin University has 580 members on its faculty. 500 students, of which 50% are women. The University is housed in four buildings, three and four stories high.

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- Directulades stated the government has allotted six-and-one-half million rubles for the construction of new buildings for the University, and another two-and-one-half million rubles for the construction of a Scientific Laboratory and equipment for same. The University is operating on a budget of 57-million rubles a year.
- 30. Courses are taught at Stalin University in both the Russian and Georgian languages. One of the oig problems of the University is that most textbooks used are in Russian, which necessitates the translation into the Georgian language.
- Thirty-five hundred of the students at Stalin University live in dormitories. Ninety percent of the students are children of either peasents or workers; and most of the students are on scholarships.

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- 32. We were told that there were over six hundred research projects underway at the University. The laboratorics which we visited were fairly modern and well kept.
- 33. Students and members of the faculty at Stalin University seemed to me to be more friendly than at any other place we visited, possibly with the exception of the Azerbaijan Industrie College, Baku. They seemed more free to talk, and there was less of the Party line given out to us than at any other school.
- 34. Doctor Burchuladze, also, said that there were 22 schools of higher learning in the state of Georgia, and that there were 42 thousand students, both men and women, attending these schools.

#### KHARKOV INSTITUTES

35. In Kharkov, there are two institutes of higher learning: The Polytechnical Institute, the larger, has 7500 students enrolled, and Kharkov University has 3500 students.

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#### KHARKOV UNIVERSITY

- particularly interested in Kharkov University, which was established in 1805. Here we met Doctor Simov [Inu], Dean of the Biological Sciences of this university. Kharkov University has a faculty of 340 members, and departments in Mathematics, Chemistry, Geology, Geography, Biology, History, Language, Economics and Foreign Languages. Attached to this University and located in surre uding cities throughou the area are smaller institutes at which Chemistry, biology, astronomy and hydro-biology are taught. The biology laboratory, which we visited here was very well equipped and well maintained.
- Kharkov University is co-educational with 60 to 65% of the students being women. Only 15% of the students of this university live in Kharkov. The buildings of the university, numbering 13, are spread throughout the city. Former university buildings were destroyed during World War II. At present there is a large building program going on at the University, and we were informed that the buildings would be completed by 1956. The new buildings will be centrally located, as in the past.
- Doctor Simov, Dean of the Biological Sciences, we learned later was one of the best known biologists in the USSR. He, at the time, was working on a research problem pertaining to the old age of people. As he stated, he was trying "to trace the changes in humans throughout their lives by trying to stop the fatal processes". He stated that in his area, there is one person, now living, who has attained the age of 147 years.

# UNIVERSITY OF ODESSA, ODESSA

This university was introduced to us as the Institute of Technology for the Food and Refrigeration Industry; and the President is Dector V S Martinevsky. The Institute is located in the central part of Odessa. Its purpose, we were old, is to prepare engineers for the food and refrigeration industry. The president said emphasis was being focused upon research of frozen foods. Its departments are for the purpose of furnishing technical information to wine, condy, and spirit industries. It also has a mechanical and refrigeration department. There are 1300 students attending, both men and women. Courses are for five years, including actual laboratory and study work for three years, and practical experience in the various industries for two years. This institute is poorly housed and the equipment is not modern.

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# TEMBRICAL SCHOOL OF MINES, KIEV

- 40. This school, in the middle school status, prepares students for work in the coal mines. The annual enrollment is 2500 students; it has a teaching staff of 100 and graduates 700 students a year. Students a year. Students a year of sec. Entrance requirements to this institution are that the student must have at least seven years of elementary schooling. The resultar course is for four years; however, if a student enters the institution who has had 10 years of elementary schooling, he enters the third year course. This school prepares students for administrative work, such as foremen and superintendents in the qual mines. There are 300 women enrolled at the school. One requirement is that each student must spend two months of each year in practical work at the coal mines, for which he is paid.
- 41. In one of the bulldings, there were there miniature coal mina, showing various levels and equipment. One of the instructors at the school informed us that there were 50 schools of this kind throughout the USSR. The students were made acquainted with all types of drilling and loading squipment. In one of the buildings, we saw a modern cutting machine. We were told that there was only one coal mine in that part of the Ukraine which was completely mechanized.
- 42. Students at the Technical School of Mines at Kiev are subsidized by scholarships, which for the year 1953, amounted to 10-million rubles.

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